

Being a postgraduate in Classics, Ancient History & Archaeology

Postgraduates from CAHA discuss the merits of studying and doing research within the School.

Title [Being a postgraduate in the CAHA \(/schools/historycultures/departments/caha/postgraduate/index.aspx\)](#)

Duration 3.34 mins

- What's unique about our programmes and expertise?

Matthew Kears I think it's probably just the variety of expertise which there is and in terms of the academics it's not just people doing Classics and Ancient History, we also have archaeologists, Byzantinists. So it's a real kind of mixture and I find it useful in a number of ways because people who aren't looking at my material but might be using similar mythologies can sort of make me re-think my research to an extent.

Meagan Mangum The walls between disciplines are really non-existent and you have the chance to work closely with - as an archaeologist I have the chance to work closely with Classicists and ancient historians and gain perspectives that I never would have imagined.

Carl Greaves Another unique aspect of CAHA is our acquisition of the Eton Myers Collection. It provides a unique opportunity for students to work with authentic objects, to analyse the material, technology, their make-up and provenance and also allows us to train them how to do 3D scanning of these objects and put them into a virtual museum.

- What does AHCA offer postgraduates in particular?

Sarah Wilkowski One of the main strengths of the department is the IAA forum, which is a real supportive network, especially as you're very new to postgraduate study, sometimes you feel like, oh! I've just started something.

Matthew Kears We also have our own sort of online journal which is fantastic because it means you can get reviews and articles published and get editing experience.

- What opportunities are there to be trained in and undertake UG teaching in the IAA?

Emma Southon I've been given some fantastic opportunities to do teaching - both in doing subject teaching in CAHA, I've done seminar teaching for second and third years and I've been given the chance to run my own courses both on my subject and on my research hobby subject of Caligula. With first years I've been given quite a lot of freedom to really kind of be enthusiastic about what I want to do. On top of that I've also done quite a lot of college of Arts and Law teaching - doing generic skills training for first years particularly teaching them how to do academic writing, what referencing is, how to use an academic journal and also I've done one-to-one training with undergraduates in first and second years.

- Is Birmingham a good location as a base for your research?

Polly Toney I think it's a great city, loads of things going on, always something to do and the interaction between the University and the city I think is really nice. The University doesn't completely take over city life but at the same time the University is a really important part of the city. Students are welcomed everywhere, there's loads of things just for students but there's loads of other opportunities for students to get involved in what's going on in the city. Birmingham itself is a really great base to explore the country - it's right in the middle. Birmingham has links to Ironbridge in Staffordshire, really important for people in AHCA who might be interested in Heritage and things like that. We're also very close to Stratford and I know that some people have been doing digs at Shakespeare's birthplace so - important for the archaeologists. When you're thinking about going to conferences and things like that when you're a postgraduate - Birmingham's a great base.